



REMOVAL

Former Rockbestos Removal Site Clinton, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



SITE HISTORY

The Former Rockbestos Removal site is located at 172 Sterling Street in Clinton, Worcester County, Massachusetts. It is owned by the Town of Clinton, which foreclosed on the property following a tax taking procedure. Approximately 8.4 acres, the site is in a mixed commercial/industrial and residential area, approximately 0.3 miles from downtown Clinton. It consists of nine parcels and is a generally flat vacant lot that contains the remnant foundations from previously demolished industrial buildings.

BACKGROUND

The site was historically occupied by wire and cable manufacturers from approximately 1936 through the early 2000s. Rockbestos-Surprenant Cable Corporation operated a mill on the property until 2003-04, when it moved operations to Connecticut. The property had multiple owners from 2004-2018 until the town foreclosed on the site on August 14, 2018. The town then contracted an environmental firm to conduct an American Society for Testing and Materials Phase I/Phase II assessment of the Site.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO CLEAN UP THE SITE?

In 2021, the town hired an environmental contractor to perform another asbestos survey prior to planned disposal of the seven debris piles. The contractor identified asbestos-containing material in one of the seven piles (identified as "Pile 6"). Six of the seven piles were disposed of by the town. A following site inspection with the town and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) in 2021 identified a smaller, approximately 10-cubic-yard pile of asbestos-containing material that had been dumped by an unknown party onto the backside of Pile 6 and some additional asbestos-containing debris in a separate area nearby.

KEY CONTACTS:

AARON SHAHEEN

U.S. EPA Community Involvement
Coordinator
shaheen.aaron@epa.gov
617-913-9181

SHERRY BANKS

On-Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA
617-918-1828
banks.sherry@epa.gov

MARK MATYS

Environmental Engineer
MassDEP
508-792-7650
mark.matys@mass.gov

TOLL-FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-888-EPA-7341

LEARN MORE AT:

response.epa.gov/formerrockbestos

continued >>



In 2023, MassDEP worked with an asbestos contractor and the town to properly remove and dispose of the two illegally dumped smaller piles, which were visually distinct from the remaining debris in Pile 6. MassDEP removed small trees growing out of Pile 6 and wrapped the pile in plastic sheeting to prevent the asbestos-containing material from moving.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted two sampling events as part of its environmental investigation in February and May 2024.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

EPA will be addressing the asbestos-containing material through a removal action, which will include removing and disposing of Pile 6 and any surface soil in contact with Pile 6 that may contain hazardous materials. Following the excavation, EPA will return the site to the town and MassDEP for any needed future actions.

Disposal of Pile 6 and surface soil and backfill will require trucks and machinery to enter the site via 172 Sterling Street. EPA will take action to control dust and prevent runoff of decontamination water from impacting the culverted stream that runs underneath the property and nearby residential and commercial properties. Air monitors will be setup around the work area and throughout the cleanup air quality will be monitored and contaminated soil will be wetted to reduce dust. The town will provide water via nearby hydrants. Fencing will be installed to restrict public access.

Work onsite is expected to begin in October 2024 and is estimated to be complete by January 30, 2025, EPA will update the response page website and provide status updates to the town and nearby businesses and residents.

MICHAEL J. WARD

Town Administrator
Town of Clinton
978-365-4120
mward@clintonma.gov

PHILIP DUFFY

Director of Community
and Economic Development
Town of Clinton
978-365-4113
pduffy@clintonma.gov